*Oxford English Dictionaries*

†1.1 trans. To engrave, imprint, impress; to inscribe, write; to define in form or outline; also fig.; = character v. 1. Obs.

†2.2 To represent, portray, figure; = character v. 2. Obs.

3.3 To describe or delineate the character or peculiar qualities of (a person or thing).

5.5 To impart character to; also absol.

*Dictionary.com*

3. to attribute [character](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/character) to: to characterize him as a coward.

**Edinburgh "cub reporter" press conference, ITV, 16 July 2005**

**Bethan Roberts reporting for The Times Educational Supplement -** In the second book, if you see a basilisk and you are wearing glasses, will they protect you? And if they do, why did Moaning Myrtle die, and if they don't, why not?

**JK Rowling:** That is a really good question. And I have been asked that before. I had to decide the glasses couldn't protect you. I just had to, because obviously there would be quite a few people at Hogwarts who were wearing glasses and I thought that might cause me plot difficulties, so I decided that glasses alone wouldn't protect you.

But as you know, I had Justin protected by the camera lens, so I think I am open for criticism there, but the way I explained to myself he was looking through several lenses and wasn't actually seeing the thing directly, it wasn't through his eyeline, when you look through a camera you are looking through the lens, it is a little distorted. You can argue with me on that and I wouldn't blame you but that is how I explained it to my self at the time.

**Eun Ji An for Raincoast.com, Canada -** I was wondering why Harry had glasses?

**JK Rowling:** Because I had glasses all through my childhood and I was sick and tired of the person in the books who wore the glasses was always the brainy one and it really irritated me and I wanted to read about a hero wearing glasses.

It also has a symbolic function, Harry is the eyes on to the books in the sense that it is always Harry's point of view, so there was also that, you know, facet of him wearing glasses.

Now, can I ask you: are there any special wizarding powers in your world that depend on the wizard using their eyes to do something? Bit like ...   
…  
Well because everyone always goes on about how Harry's got Lily Potter's eyes.  
Aren’t you smart? There is something, maybe, coming about that. I’m going to say no more, very clever.

**Boquet, Tim. "J.K. Rowling: The Wizard Behind Harry Potter," Reader's Digest, December 2000**

She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books, outraged that an Italian dust jacket shows Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that they are the clue to his vulnerability?

[**http://www.top10-best.com/d/top\_10\_best\_daniel\_radcliffe\_quotes.html**](http://www.top10-best.com/d/top_10_best_daniel_radcliffe_quotes.html)

It's good to be back filming. I just put on my glasses and then I became Harry again.

--DANIEL RADCLIFFE

**Fred Topel daniel-radcliffe-looks-back-ten-years-of-being-harry-potter**

One thing I did take I did ask for. I would have stolen it had they not given it to me. But I did ask for it and they complied, was the glasses. I've got two sets of the glasses. One from the first movie, which are tiny now, and one from the last movie. And there both the lens-less pairs, because that's the ones we used more often, so they're the ones I associated more with Harry. Yeah, those would be my souvenirs.

***Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* Script**

|  |
| --- |
| [DRACO MALFOY](http://www.quotefully.com/movie/Harry+Potter+and+the+Chamber+of+Secrets/Draco+Malfoy)  [to Harry, who's disguised as Goyle but still wearing his glasses] Why are you wearing glasses? |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | [HARRY POTTER](http://www.quotefully.com/movie/Harry+Potter+and+the+Chamber+of+Secrets/Harry+Potter)  [Quickly removes his glasses] Um... reading. |

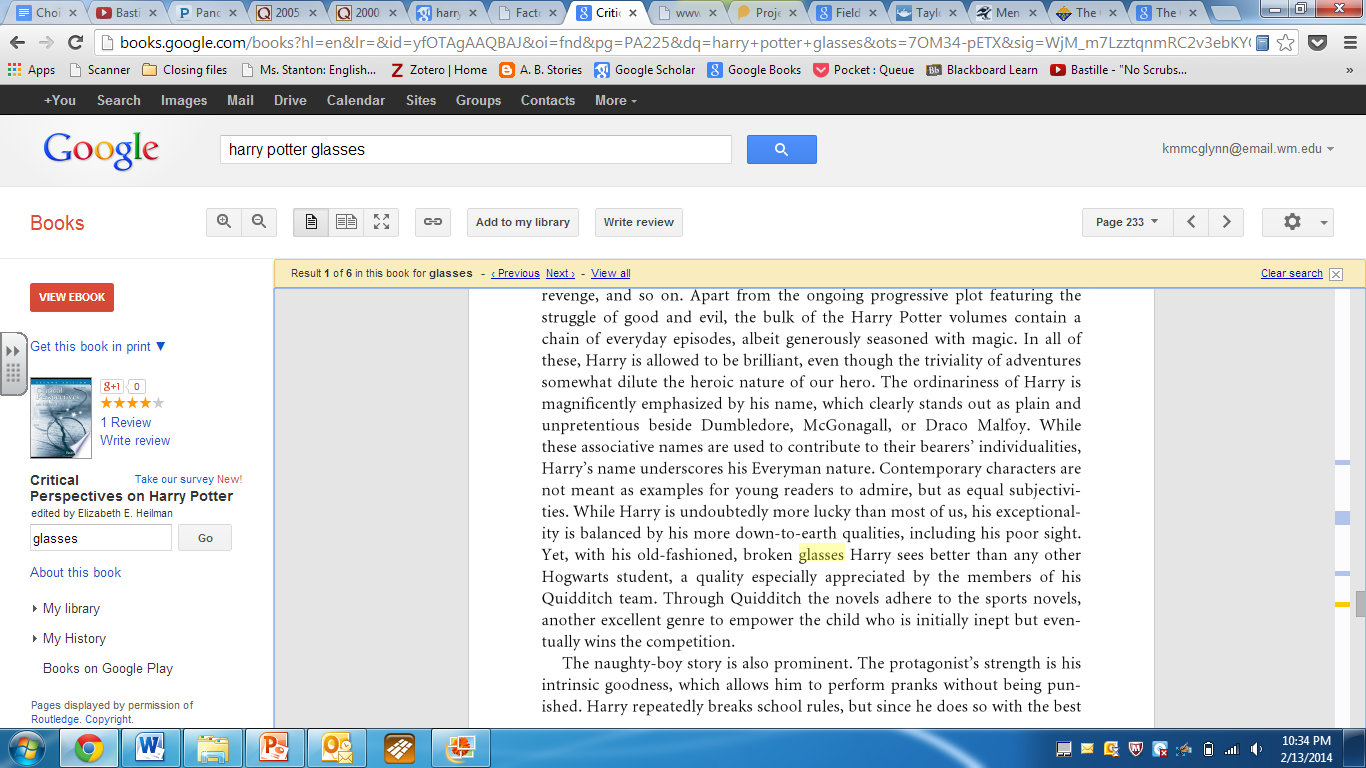
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | [DRACO MALFOY](http://www.quotefully.com/movie/Harry+Potter+and+the+Chamber+of+Secrets/Draco+Malfoy)  Reading? [Harry nods] I didn't know you could read. |

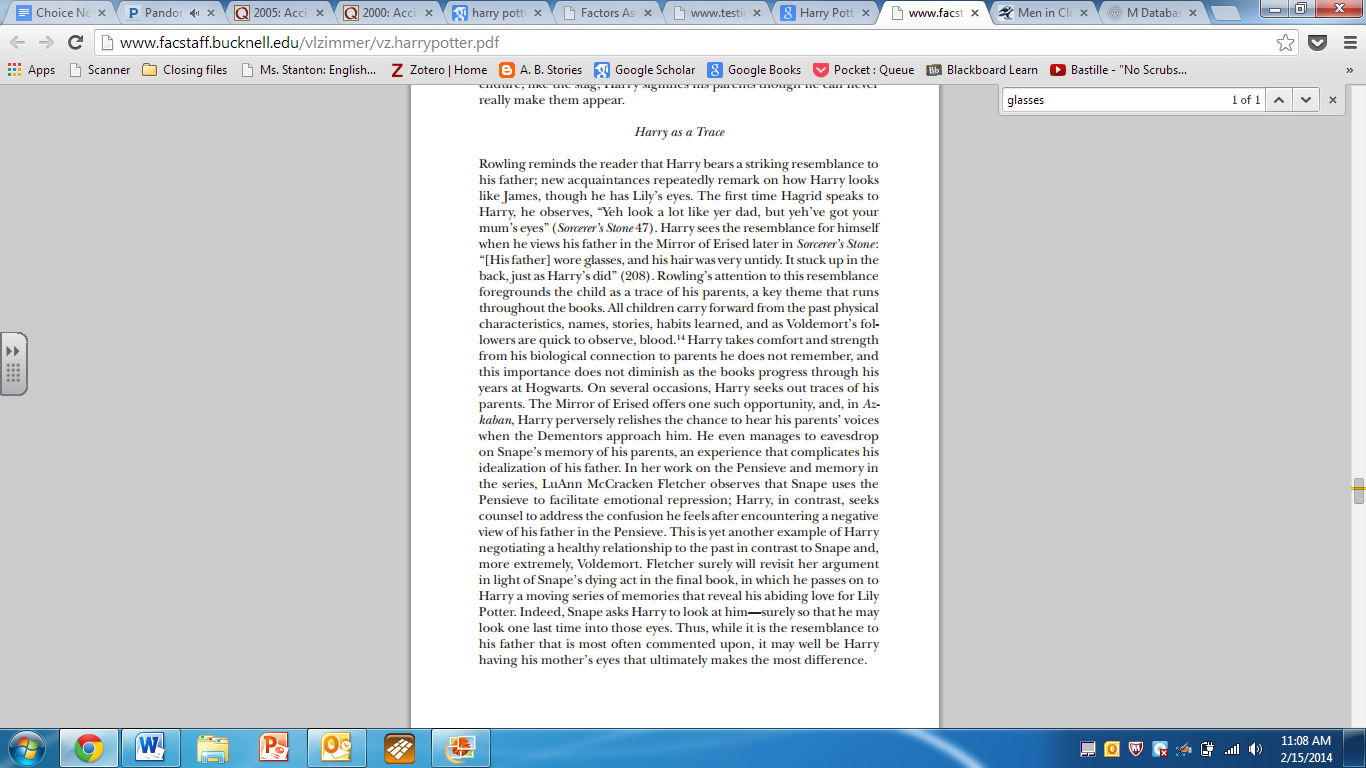
**Factors Associated with Spectacle-Wear Compliance in School-Aged Mexican Children**

“Our experience in Mexico and elsewhere has suggested that such round frames (“Harry Potter” glasses) are often less appealing to children concerned about appearances.” (927)

**Men in Cloaks and High-heeled Boots, Men Wielding Pink Umbrellas: Witchy Masculinities in the Harry Potter novels**

It is sometimes difficult to differentiate the characters described in the books from the charming and handsome actors who play them in the film versions of the texts, but in the novels, Harry and his friends are often described in ways that are not conventionally attractive. When we meet Harry in HPSS, he is described as "small and skinny for his age" (20) and as having hair that grows "all over the place" (21). His glasses are taped together because Dudley has punched him in the nose so many times and, according to Gallardo and Smith, he "inhabits 'feminine' spaces" such as the cupboard under the stairs (197).

**Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter**



**Harry Potter and the Gift of Time by Virginia Zimmerman**

**[HTML]** [Psychosocial impact of amblyopia and its treatment: a multidisciplinary study](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1442-9071.2006.01317.x/full)

K Koklanis, [LA Abel](http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=zKN8b6kAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra), R Aroni - Clinical & experimental …, 2006 - Wiley Online Library

**...** Hence, both the patch and **glasses**, not necessarily in combination, caused feelings of stigma.  
However, children were better able to make positive **associations** with **glasses**. For example,  
a few children thought they were 'smarter' and 'faster' with their **glasses**. **...**

# What do kids think about kids in eyeglasses?

**Results:** Eighty subjects between the ages of 6 and 10 years participated. The average (±SD) age of the subjects was 8.3 ± 1.3 years, 42 (53%) were females, 51 (64%) were whites, 21 (26%) were blacks, and 30 (38%) wore glasses. The spectacle wearer appeared smarter (0.66, CI = 0.60–0.71) and more honest (0.57, CI = 0.50–0.64), and children who wore glasses looked smarter regardless of whether the child picking wore glasses. Both boys (0.66, CI = 0.68–0.79) and girls (0.77, CI = 0.71–0.82) thought that boys looked better at playing sports.

**Discussion:** The old adage ‘Boys never make passes at lasses who wear glasses’ may be outmoded, but glasses may tend to make children look smarter and slightly more honest to their peers.



***Sorcerer’s Stone***

“Instead he was smiling at a rather severe-looking woman who was wearing square glasses exactly the shape of the markings the cat had had around its eyes.” (9)

“Harry had a thin face, knobbly knees, black hair, and bright green eyes. He wore round glasses held together with a lot of Scotch tape because of all the times Dudley had punched him on the nose.” (20)

“Once, Aunt Petunia, tired of Harry coming back from the barbers looking as though he hadn’t been at all, had taken a pair of kitchen scissors and cut his hair so short he was almost bald except for his bangs, which she left ‘to hide that horrible scar.’ Dudley had laughed himself silly at Harry, who spent a sleepless night imagining school the next day, where he was already laughed at for his baggy clothes and taped glasses. Next morning, however, he had gotten up to find his hair exactly as it had been before Aunt Petunia had sheared it off.” (24)

“At school, Harry had no one. Everybody knew that Dudley’s gang hated that odd Harry Potter in his baggy clothes and broken glasses, and nobody liked to disagree with Dudley’s gang.” (30)

“She had dark red hair and her eyes—her eyes are just like mine, Harry thought, edging a little closer to the glass. Bright green—exactly the same shape…He wore glasses, and his hair was very untidy. It stuck up at the back, just as Harry’s did.” (208)

“‘Strange how nearsighted being invisible can make you,’ said Dumbledore” (213)

“Something gold was glinting just above him. The Snitch! He tried to catch it, but his arms were too heavy. He blinked. It wasn’t the Snitch at all. It was a pair of glasses. How strange.” (295)

***Prisoner of Azkaban***

“Harry, though still rather small and skinny for his age, had grown a few inches over the last year. His jet-black hair, however, was just as it always had been—stubbornly untidy, whatever he did to it. The eyes behind his glasses were bright green, and on his forehead, clearly visible through his hair, was a thin scar, shaped like a bolt of lightning.” (6)

“…he put Hagrid’s card up next to Ron’s and Hermione’s, grinning more broadly than ever…

Deciding that he’d worry about the Hogsmeade form when he woke up, Harry got back into bed and reached up to cross off another day on the chart he’d made for himself, counting down the days left until his return to Hogwarts. Then he took off his glasses and lay down; eyes open, facing his three birthday cards. Extremely unusual though he was, at that moment Harry Potter felt just like everyone else — glad, for the first time in his life, that it was his birthday.” (14-15)

“‘I’ve had an idea, Harry! Give me your glasses, quick!’ He handed them to her, and as the team watched in amazement, Hermione tapped them with her wand and said, ‘*Impervius!*’’‘There!’ she said, handing them back to Harry. ‘They’ll repel water!’….Hermione’s spell had done the trick. Harry was still numb with cold, still wetter than he’d ever been in his life, but he could see.’ (177)

***Deathly Hallows***

“He sat up. His body appeared unscathed. He touched his face. He was not wearing glasses anymore.” (706) HP DH

“Dumbledore sat down in one of them, and Harry fell into the other, staring at his old headmaster’s face. Dumbledore’s long silver hair and beard, the piercingly blue eyes behind half-moon spectacles, the crooked nose: Everything was as he had remembered it. And yet…” (707)

“He was lying facedown on the ground again. The smell of the forest filled his nostrils. He could feel the cold hard ground beneath his cheek, and the hinge of his glasses, which had been knocked sideways by the fall, cutting into his temple.” (724)

“He was thrown one, twice, three times into the air: His glasses flew off and he felt his wand slide a little beneath his robes, but he kept himself floppy and lifeless, and when he fell to the ground for the last time, the clearing echoed with jeers and shrieks of laughter.” (727)

“Someone slammed Harry’s glasses back onto his face with deliberate force, but the enormous hands that lifted him into the air were exceedingly gentle.” (727)

“Look...at...me…’ he whispered.

The green eyes found the black, but after a second, something in the depths of the dark pair seemed to vanish, leaving them fixed, blank, and empty.” (658)

“‘I thought you wore glasses, Potter?” breathed Greyback. ‘I found glasses!’ yelped one of the Snatchers skulking in the background. ‘There was glasses in the tent, Greyback,wait--’ And seconds later Harry’s glasses had been rammed back onto his face.” (453)



